

Raising Awareness of Child Labor Trafficking

Outreach Methods & Resources



In commemoration of January 2024 Human Trafficking Prevention Month, the U.S. Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) has created this *Raising Awareness of Child Labor Trafficking Outreach* document, which contains outreach tools and sample materials to help you quickly and capably develop and carry out your child labor trafficking awareness campaign throughout the year. Join OVC in raising awareness of child victims of labor trafficking by highlighting their rights and the services available to assist them, celebrating the progress achieved, and honoring survivors and the stakeholders who work alongside them.

BLOG

Consider sharing more in-depth messages with your community online through a blog. Post as frequently as you wish, with a goal of at least once a month. Be sure to provide a link to your blog on your Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), and other social media pages.

Steps to an Engaging Blog Post

- Target your audience by using an appropriate reading level and relevant content.
- Check your facts—use only statistics that come from reliable sources and cite them.
- State your main points in your introduction and again in the conclusion.
- Limit your post to no more than 750 words.
- Time the release of your blog post to coincide with events and current news.

Sample Blog Post

What Is Labor Trafficking?

Labor trafficking is **defined** as “the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.”

Survivors can be anyone—men, women, adults, minors, U.S. citizens, legal permanent residents, or foreign nationals. However, human traffickers often target members of marginalized communities and other vulnerable individuals. Labor trafficking can happen in legal and illegal industries—in homes, common retail establishments, dance clubs, childcare, elder care, construction, factories, landscaping, health and beauty services, hotels, farms, forestry, or restaurants.

Companies and their contractors that unlawfully employ children hurt vulnerable communities, undercut labor standards for all workers, and, in some cases, create the demand that gives rise to human trafficking. Addressing child labor exploitation and child trafficking is critical to advancing the health, education, and well-being of children and families in the United States. Since 2018, the U.S. Department of Labor’s Wage and Hour Division (WHD) has seen a **69 percent increase** in children employed in violation of child labor laws. WHD is the federal agency responsible for enforcing federal child labor laws under the Fair Labor Standards Act and ensuring that children in the workforce are only in safe, age-appropriate jobs. The agency investigates complaints and assesses penalties to employers who are found to be unlawfully employing children.

While it is notoriously difficult to identify labor trafficking cases, the U.S. Department of Justice’s National Institute of Justice (NIJ)-funded project, [Understanding the Trafficking of Children for the Purpose of Labor in the United States](#), is collecting data from four U.S. sites where multiple child labor trafficking cases have occurred and looking at who the perpetrators are, how they operate, and the challenges to victim identification and response.

Spreading awareness about anti-child labor trafficking to trusted community partners and the vulnerable communities you serve is critical to preventing and addressing child labor exploitation.

While it can feel overwhelming to learn that child labor trafficking can happen anywhere in many different industries, you can help by identifying and referring potential unlawful child labor violations, educating both your staff and community members about this issue, and assisting victims in understanding the civil remedies that may be available to them.

As an individual or community, you can take the following actions:

- Call 911 if someone you know is in immediate danger. Do not attempt to intervene yourself.
- Call (888-373-7888), text (233733), or chat (www.humantraffickinghotline.org/chat) the National Human Trafficking Hotline if you have information to share about a possible trafficking situation.
- Refer potential labor violations to the WHD at 1-866-487-9243. Please visit WHD’s website on child labor at www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/child-labor where you can find numerous educational resources, including this [fact sheet](#), which explains the basic requirements of child labor law (and is also available [in Spanish](#)).
- Take the OVC-funded training on [Understanding Human Trafficking](#), or access Framework’s [specialized training and resources](#) about labor trafficking.



COLLABORATION, TRANSFORMATION, IMPACT

- Visit the [Faces of Human Trafficking](#) page for tools to help raise awareness.
- Familiarize yourself with the rights afforded to employed workers, including those related to pay, safety, health, and discrimination, and [whom to contact to file complaints](#).
- Encourage any workforce development organization in your community, such as a development center, a vocational school, or an organization that provides services to individuals who are homeless, to make sure their clients know their rights as employees.
- Explore the [OVC website](#), [subscribe to receive News From OVC](#), and find continuing education opportunities for training in the field of [human trafficking](#).

If your organization already provides services to victims of child labor trafficking, you can take the following actions:

- Build your capacity by reaching out to OVC's [training and technical assistance providers](#).
- Partner with organizations and individuals that may serve at-risk populations, including immigrant rights, runaway and homeless youth, and LGBTQI+ advocacy organizations; juvenile diversion programs; refugee advocates; farmers who use migrant and seasonal workers; male survivors; and legal advocates.
- Collaborate with organizations that may encounter child labor trafficking victims through their work, including state and local government departments that regulate labor, organizations that work with at-risk communities, and workers' rights and industry-specific organizations.
- Reach out to *[Insert local program information that might be applicable]*.
- Make education about workers' rights readily available in multiple languages, including where to report violations.

If your organization does not provide services to victims of child labor trafficking, in addition to taking any of the actions listed above, consider doing the following:

- Reach out to *[Insert local program information and resources that might be applicable]*.
- Educate yourself using anti-trafficking resources such as [Framework's Labor Trafficking Resource Guide](#), [An Introduction to Labor Trafficking](#) in OVC's [Faces of Human Trafficking](#) series, and other [relevant resources](#).
- View and share OVC's [Child Victims and Witnesses Support Materials on Human Trafficking](#)—particularly if your organization works with children or youth involved with the justice system as victims or witnesses. See [Sergio's story](#), which describes the experience of a young boy who was a victim of labor trafficking and is part of a federal case.

Working together, we can all transform the response to child labor trafficking and make an impact in the lives of vulnerable youth.



SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media allows you to engage directly with the public and build relationships through succinct messaging. The most important social media platforms for your campaign are available for free, though many allow you to pay for access to a larger audience.

FACEBOOK



Many organizations already have a Facebook business or cause page. Rather than opening a new page specific to a particular topic, use these established pages with built-in audiences to promote your Human Trafficking Prevention Month activities and information. Post photos, videos, organizational content, invitations to upcoming events, and links leading back to your website. Engage your audience by replying to their comments on posts and liking or sharing posts from other people and organizations in your network. Use the Facebook Live feature to stream live events or answer questions in real time. You can also temporarily pin a post highlighting the month to the top of your page to increase its visibility. Use the sample posts below or create your own to launch your Facebook campaign. Be sure to use applicable hashtags and add #EndHumanTrafficking to your posts.

X (FORMERLY TWITTER)



The X platform is an information-sharing network where each post is limited to 280 characters. If you set up a new account, choose a handle (username) that other users will recognize (often the name or abbreviation of your organization) and an easily identifiable profile picture. To be an active user, follow other individuals and organizations, follow their followers, repost their posts, and promote them to your audience. Create your own posts that link back to your website or your other social media pages and use images and graphics when possible. Create longer-form messages by replying to your own posts and creating a “thread.” Maximize your presence by staying engaged in conversations on subjects that are important

to your mission, and by quickly responding to other users’ posts and mentions of your organization or causes. Adding a hashtag connects your post with related posts from other users and is a useful way to become part of a conversation. Make sure to use the most applicable tags and add #EndHumanTrafficking to your tweets.

Sample Social Media Posts

- Want to get involved in National Human Trafficking Prevention Month? Access @OJPOVC’s guide to help plan and promote your community’s antitrafficking events. <https://ovc.ojp.gov/collaboration-transformation-impact-anti-trafficking-commemoration-guide/overview>. #EndHumanTrafficking
- Join OVC in raising awareness about child labor trafficking during the January 2024 #HumanTraffickingPreventionMonth by downloading and using the OVC updated [Commemoration guide](#). #EndHumanTrafficking
- Help victims of human trafficking find the support and resources they need by calling 855-4-VICTIM (855-484-2846) to learn about their rights and options as a victim of crime. <https://victimconnect.org> #EndHumanTrafficking
- OVC provides practitioner-driven, evidence-based training and technical assistance that is responsive to the particular needs of victim service providers and system stakeholders in the anti-trafficking field. Learn more. <https://ovc.ojp.gov/program/human-trafficking/training-and-technical-assistance> #EndHumanTrafficking
- If you or someone you know is a victim of human trafficking, help is available. Call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 888-373-7888 or contact an OVC-funded program in your area. Visit OVC’s [services and task forces map](#) for contact info. <https://ovc.ojp.gov/program/human-trafficking/map> #EndHumanTrafficking
- Visit OVC’s website to learn about anti-trafficking resources and ideas for events and activities. <https://ovc.ojp.gov/program/human-trafficking> #EndHumanTrafficking



COLLABORATION, TRANSFORMATION, IMPACT

- Throughout National Human Trafficking Month, @OJPOVC will tell Sergio's story from their Child Victim and Witness Support Materials series. Follow along to learn about #labortrafficking of children and youth. #EndHumanTrafficking
- Learn about OVC's series of audiobooks and graphic novels that offer age-appropriate resources and support to children and youth during their involvement with the justice system as a victim or witness of #humantrafficking. <https://ovc.ojp.gov/child-victims-and-witnesses-support/human-trafficking> #EndHumanTrafficking
- Read the parent & caregiver guides in the @OJPOVC Child Victims and Witnesses Support Materials series to learn how you can use the graphic novels to support children and youth who are victims or witnesses of #humantrafficking. <https://ovc.ojp.gov/child-victims-and-witnesses-support/human-trafficking/guides> #EndHumanTrafficking
- Learn more about @OJPOVC support for anti-trafficking programs and services for victims of labor and sex trafficking. <https://ovc.ojp.gov/program/human-trafficking/ovc-efforts>
- Want to learn more about data-driven solutions for your anti-trafficking work? Check out the Action Research Toolkit, developed by the @OJPOVC Training and Technical Assistance Center. <https://www.ovcttac.gov/views/HowWeCanHelp/dspHumanTrafficking.cfm>
- #ForcedLabor and #SexTrafficking are crimes under federal and state laws in the United States. Do you know what these crimes are? Learn about them here <https://www.justice.gov/humantrafficking/what-is-human-trafficking> #EndHumanTrafficking
- Do you know someone working long hours and being paid nothing or very little? Or someone who has had to have sex in exchange for something of value? Text 233733 or call 1-888-373-7888 to talk with someone at the [National Human Trafficking Hotline](#). #EndHumanTrafficking

KEY RESOURCES:

Reports and Key Documents:

- [National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking](#)
- [2023 Trafficking in Persons Report - United States Department of State](#)

Resources for People Who Have Experienced Labor Trafficking:

- [Factsheet: T & U Visa and Continued Presence](#)
- [Hotline: National Human Trafficking Hotline](#)
- [Video: How to Apply for a Certification Letter for Foreign National Adults Who Experience Human Trafficking](#)
- [Video: How to Apply for an Eligibility Letter for Foreign National Minors Who Experienced Human Trafficking](#)

Families, Children and Youth:

- [Factsheet: Child-Friendly Spaces for Survivors of Human Trafficking](#)
- [Microsite: Trafficking Prevention and Protection Resources for Working with Unaccompanied Children](#)
- [Resource: DOJ OVC Child Victims and Witnesses Support Materials: Graphic Novels and Support Materials for Child and Youth Victims of Human Trafficking](#)
- [SOAR Online Training: Working with Foreign National Minors Who Have Experienced Trafficking](#)
- [Report: HTLA Class 4 Recommendations on 2-Generation/ Whole Family Approach for Post-Secondary and Employment Opportunities and Economic Assets](#)

Forced Labor:

- [Factsheet: CBP Forced Labor Webpage](#)
- [Factsheet: What can importers do to help combat forced labor?](#)
- [Factsheet: Due Diligence in Global Supply Chains](#)



- Information Memorandum: Federal Statutory and Regulatory Framework on Forced Labor in Healthcare and Public Health Supply Chains

